

REMARKS

Claims 13 to 27 and 37 to 42 are all the claims pending in the application, prior to the present Amendment.

Claims 13-27 and 37-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over the Go et al article entitled, "*Property Control of High Purity Titanium Dioxide by Vapor Phase Oxidation Process.*"

At page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 40-42 have not been rejected over Go et al because Go et al do not disclose or suggest the residence times (of 0.01 to 0.05 seconds) set forth in these claims.

In now reviewing the claims set forth in the Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on May 27, 2008, applicants realize that claims 37-39 contained an error. Applicants had intended these claims to recite a residence time of 0.005 to 0.05 seconds. Instead, these claims recited a residence time of 0.005 to 0.1 seconds. Applicants have now amended independent claims 13, 18 and 23 to recite a residence time of 0.005 seconds to 0.05 seconds, and have canceled claims 37-39. Support for these amendments appears in the present specification at page 20, lines 8-13.

Since the upper value for the residence time in claims 13, 18 and 23 is the same as the upper value in claims 40-42 which have been indicated by the Examiner to be allowable over Go et al, applicants submit that the amended claims 13, 18 and 23 similarly are allowable over Go et al.

In view of the above, applicants submit that the Go et al article does not render obvious the subject matter of the present claims and, accordingly, request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 13-27 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 10-30 of copending Application No. 11/883,749.

In response, since the copending application has not as yet been examined, and if the present application overcomes all of the outstanding rejections except for the double patenting rejection, then the present application can be passed to issue as long as the copending application has not been allowed. Accordingly, applicants defer responding to this rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application No.: 10/506,547

Attorney Docket No.: Q68919

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

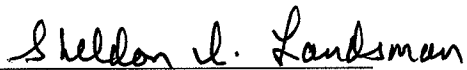
Respectfully submitted,

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